

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 are pending. Applicants thank Examiner Flandro and his Supervisory Patent Examiner, Lynne Browne, for the Personal Interview of January 9, 2003.

I. Substitute Specification

The originally filed specification stands objected to for formal matters. In response, Applicant hereby provides a Substitute Specification, correcting both the line spacing and page numbering. The specification has also been amended to include subject matter recited by the originally filed claims, but not included in the text of the specification, as well as clarify the definition of "cavities" as recited by the claims. Applicants have further corrected the phrase "a to small clearance" as well as a number of other inadvertent typographical errors.

II. Claim Amendments

Claims 1-16 stand objected to and rejected under 35 USC § 112 as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim that which is considered the invention. In response, the claims have each been amended to more definitively recite the present invention. However, as the amendments to the claims have been made merely to clarify that which was originally intended, the scope of the claims is unchanged.

III. 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Martensson (U.S. Patent No. 6,101,778) in view of Parasin (U.S. Patent No. 5,165,816). The Office Action asserts that Martensson teaches each feature recited by the claims, except for recesses to form cavities to hold the glue used for joining, for which purpose Parasin is cited. Specifically, the Office Action points to various holes, identified at 42, 44 and 46 of Parasin, as being similar to the presently recited cavities.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the holes 42, 44 and 46 of Parasin are not cavities as presently claimed. As shown in Fig. 4 of the present specification, cavities are voids in a structure wherein a cross-section is closed on all sides. Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the elements identified at 4, and contrast such cavities to the space between the panels at the bottom of the joint (not identified with a reference numeral). The spaces 42, 44 and 46 do not have a closed cross-section, as the spaces 42, 44 and 46 are open on at least one side. Thus, Applicants respectfully present that the combination of Martensson and Parasin fails to teach each element of the present claims. Reconsideration is requested.

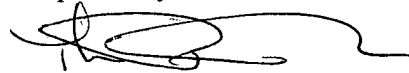
IV. Martensson

Applicants additionally direct the Examiner's attention to PCT Publication No. WO 96/27721, i.e., the international application from which Martensson claims priority. Accordingly, Applicants have concurrently filed an Information Disclosure Statement, officially requesting consideration of WO '721.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all objections and rejections are overcome. Thus, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: Feb 6, 2003